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The Right To Keep And To Bear Arms

When the CIA started training anti-Castro troops in Florida for the invasion of Cuba, it left the barn door wide open for anyone to fly in and start recruiting his own private army.

Robert F. Williams, president of the Union County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who has been in trouble before with the national group because of his militant statements, has now formed a so-called rifle club and says that he is going to start an "armament race with the white people of Monroe."

Williams has twice been to Cuba since Castro and his Red-tinged government took control, and it is said that he often flies the Cuban flag from a pole in his backyard. He says that his group now has 100 rifles, mostly of foreign make. He openly admits to keeping an armed guard at his house at night.

Now we realize that the United States Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to keep and bear arms. But it is to be assumed that each citizen who keeps and bears arms does so with peaceful intentions. He has a right to resist any unwarranted invasion of his private property, but we are a bit disturbed by a statement attributed to Williams in which he is quoted, "if anyone attacks my house, the city of Monroe is going to see a blood bath." Now, we cannot imagine anyone in his right mind attacking this so-called armed camp that Williams is maintaining, but neither can we imagine that his intentions are exactly those of a man forming a rifle club for the purpose of knocking over tin cans or hippity-hop rabbits.

We are not saying that a person does not have the right to keep a rifle or a shotgun on his premises as long as he uses it in a lawful manner, but we do say that the situation in Monroe would bear watching by the authorities.

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